

Hunting and Trapping Emergency Order

Under the Authority of AS 16.05.060

Alaska Department
of Fish and Game

Emergency Order No. 03-12-03

Issued at Fairbanks, Alaska
December 6, 2003

Effective Date: 11:59 p.m.
December 7, 2003

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m.
June 30, 2004

EXPLANATION:

This Emergency Order closes the State of Alaska winter hunting season by registration permit RC867 for Fortymile caribou in Unit 20(B) south and east of the Steese Highway to the Unit 20(B) boundary and in Unit 25(C) east of Preacher Creek and American Creek. The hunt was closed in the southern portion of Unit 20(E) on December 1. The remainder of the RC867 hunt area in Units 20(D) and 20(E) is not affected by this emergency order.

REGULATION:

Therefore, the following regulations in **5AAC 85.025(20), HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU**, are superseded by this emergency order, and the following provisions are effective for hunting caribou:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident	Nonresident
	Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Open Season

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Unit 20(B), that portion south and east of the Steese Highway and north of Chena Hot Springs Road to its junction with the Middle Fork of the Chena River, then north of the Middle Fork of the Chena River to the Unit 20(B) boundary

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

Units and Bag Limits

1 caribou by registration permit only; up to 650 caribou may be taken under combined resident and nonresident bag limits in combination with the remainder of Unit 25(C)

**Resident
Open Season
(Subsistence and
General Hunts)**

Aug. 10–Sept. 20
Dec. 1–Dec. 7
(General hunt only)

**Nonresident
Open Season**

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull by registration permit only

Aug. 10–Sept. 20

Unit 20(B), that portion east of the Steese Highway and south of Chena Hot Springs Road to its junction with the Middle Fork of the Chena River, then south of the Middle Fork of the Chena River to the Unit 20(B) boundary

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 caribou by registration permit only; up to 250 caribou may be taken under combined resident and nonresident bag limits in combination with Unit 20(D), that portion north of the south bank of the Tanana River, and Unit 20(E), that portion within the Middle Fork of the Fortymile River and Charley River drainages

Aug 10–Sept. 26
Dec. 1–Dec. 7
(General hunt only)

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Unit 25(C), those portions west of the east bank of the mainstem of Preacher Creek to its confluence with American Creek, then west of the east bank of American Creek

1 caribou per regulatory year, only as follows:

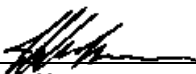
Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
1 bull; or	Aug. 10–Sept. 20 (General hunt only)	Aug. 10–Sept. 20
1 caribou by registration permit only; up to 100 caribou may be taken	Dec. 1–Mar. 31 (General hunt only)	Dec. 1–Mar. 31
Remainder of Unit 25(C)		
RESIDENT HUNTERS:		
1 caribou by registration permit only; up to 650 caribou may be taken under combined resident and nonresident bag limits in combination with Unit 20(B), that portion south and east of the Steese Highway and north of Chena Hot Springs Road to its junction with the Middle Fork of the Chena River, then north of the Middle Fork of the Chena River to the Unit 20(B) boundary; during a season to be announced during the period Dec. 1– Feb 28		
Aug. 10–Sept. 20 Dec. 6–Dec. 7		
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:		
1 bull by registration permit only		Aug. 10–Sept. 20

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All other caribou hunting regulations in Units 20 and 25 remain unchanged and are not affected by this emergency order.

Kevin C. Duffy
Commissioner

By delegation to: _____


Jeffrey A. Gross
Area Wildlife Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

In March 2000, the Alaska Board of Game endorsed the Fortymile Caribou Herd Harvest Plan (Harvest Plan) as a means of guiding harvest of the herd from 2001 through 2006. The annual harvest quota is allocated seasonally: 75% to the fall hunt and 25% to the winter hunt. The winter hunt encompasses Unit 20(E) and portions of Units 20(B), 20(D), and 25(C). This winter's quota is 301 caribou. The Board instructed the Division of Wildlife Conservation to allocate the winter harvest between the subunits. Each year, depending on the herd's distribution, up to 60% of the harvest quota is allocated to the unit where most of the caribou are wintering. The RC867 hunt opening was delayed to December 6 due to concerns of over harvest. The quota of 180 caribou for the portion of the hunt in Units 20(B) and 25(C) is expected to be met on December 7, 2003, and no further harvest is warranted in these units. The hunt was closed in the southern portion of Unit 20(E) on December 1 to prevent overharvest of Nelchina caribou that moved into the area. The RC867 season is scheduled to remain open in Unit 20D and the northern portion of Unit 20(E) until February 28, 2004, but will be closed sooner if the harvest quota is reached.